

**In the Claims.**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.(currently amended) An apparatus for sewing finishing a piece cut from a length of textile material unwound from a roll and closing a leading edge of the length of textile material, comprising: advancement means for causing advancement of said length of textile material to unwind along an unwinding direction two successive portions of said length of textile material, for a total longitudinal extension equal to the longitudinal extension of the piece to be finished; cutting means, arranged downstream of said advancement means to cut said piece from said length of textile material with a cut that is perpendicular to said unwinding direction and forms a rear edge of the cut piece and the leading edge of the length of textile material to be unwound; positioning means, arranged downstream of said cutting means; and a sewing machine having a sewing path arranged at said positioning means, said positioning means being adapted to oscillate through a 90° angle for arranging and block the leading edge of said unwound length of material at said sewing path of [with respect to] said sewing machine; and said advancement means, said cutting means and said positioning means being coordinately operatable so that said advancement means unwind said length of material for a said first portion whose longitudinal dimension is such that said leading edge is engaged in said positioning means, said positioning means oscillate through said 90° angle to position said leading edge in alignment with and at the sewing path of said sewing machine, said sewing machine produces a stitched seam along said leading edge, said advancement means unwind a said second portion from said length of material, and said cutting means cut a piece from said length of material.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cutting means comprise: a guide that lies transversely to the unwinding direction of said length of textile material; a carriage that can move with a reciprocating motion on said guide; and an assembly, composed of a cutting blade and of a motor for actuating the blade, mounted on said carriage.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, comprising an abutment bar; a locking bar that lies opposite said abutment bar; actuation means for actuating said locking bar between a position that is spaced from said abutment bar in order to allow the passage of said length of textile material and a position for resting against said abutment bar in order to allow locking of said length of textile material, said abutment and locking bars being provided with mutually opposite gaps which provide passage for said blade for cutting said piece from said length of textile material.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said positioning means comprise: a bar with a plurality of elastic tabs fixed thereon in a comb-like manner; a strip articulated about an axis that lies

transversely to the unwinding direction of the length of textile material; a strip actuation means for actuating said strip to move between a vertical position, which allows passage of said length of textile material between said strip and said bar, and a horizontal position, at which said strip locks a front margin of said length of textile material under said elastic tabs so that the leading edge of said piece protrudes from said tabs and said strip.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said positioning means comprise: a strip; a metal plate; said strip and metal plate being articulated about axes that lie transversely to the unwinding direction in which said length of textile material unwinds; strip actuation means for actuating said strip to move between a position in which the strip forms, together with said metal plate, a passage channel for said length of material, and a position in which clamps said length of material against an edge of said metal plate, said strip and said metal plate being arranged so as to perform a relative movement whereby to push a margin of said length of textile material onto the sewing path of said sewing machine.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said locking bar is constituted by a profiled element that has a C-shaped cross-section open toward said length of textile material, and said abutment bar is constituted by two parallel and spaced profiled elements, said C-shaped cross-section and said profiled elements forming respective mutually opposite gaps which allow, in a mutual resting position, passage of said blade.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said advancement means comprise a motor element, and a grip assembly constituted by a pair of parallel and contrarotating rollers between which said length of textile material is guided.

8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said rollers are provided with respective gears that mesh with each other, one of said rollers being actuated by said motor element.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, comprising: guides; and motorization assemblies, said cutting assembly and said sewing machine being slidably mounted and connected on respective ones of said guides and being actuated with a reciprocating motion by respective ones of said motorization assemblies, each said respective motorization assembly comprising a driving pulley, a belt wound around said driving pulley and a pulley which is guided so as to have a portion thereof that is parallel to said guides to which said cutting assembly and said sewing machine are connected.

10.(original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said elastic tabs are formed by a blanked metal plate.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said actuation means for actuating said strip and said locking bar are pneumatic actuators.

12.(new) An apparatus for sewing finishing a piece cut from a length of textile material unwound from a roll and closing a leading edge of the length of textile material, comprising: advancement means for causing advancement of said length of textile material to unwind along an unwinding direction two successive portions of said length of textile material, for a total longitudinal extension equal to the longitudinal extension of the piece to be finished; cutting means, arranged downstream of said advancement means to cut said piece from said length of textile material with a cut that is perpendicular to said unwinding direction and forms a rear edge of the cut piece and the leading edge of the length of textile material to be unwound; positioning means, arranged downstream of said cutting means; and a sewing machine having a sewing path arranged at said positioning means, said positioning means comprising a strip that is oscillatable through a 90° angle between a position arranged flush with said unwinding direction of the length of textile material and a position for blocking the leading edge of said unwound length of material at said sewing path of said sewing machine; and said advancement means, said cutting means and said positioning means being coordinately operatable so that said advancement means unwind said length of material for a said first portion whose longitudinal dimension is such that said leading edge is engaged in said positioning means, said positioning means oscillate through said 90° angle to position said leading edge in alignment with and at the sewing path of said sewing machine, said sewing machine produces a stitched seam along said leading edge, said advancement means unwind a said second portion from said length of material, and said cutting means cut a piece from said length of material.

13.(new) An apparatus for sewing finishing a piece cut from a length of textile material unwound from a roll and closing a leading edge of the length of textile material, comprising: advancement means for causing advancement of said length of textile material to unwind along an unwinding direction two successive portions of said length of textile material, for a total longitudinal extension equal to the longitudinal extension of the piece to be finished; cutting means, arranged downstream of said advancement means to cut said piece from said length of textile material with a cut that is perpendicular to said unwinding direction and forms a rear edge of the cut piece and the leading edge of the length of textile material to be unwound; positioning means, arranged downstream of said cutting means; and a sewing machine having a sewing path arranged at said positioning means, said positioning means being provided oscillatable through a 90° angle between a vertical position in which the positioning means are arranged flush with said unwinding direction of the length of textile material and a horizontal position for blocking the leading edge of said unwound length of material at said sewing path of said sewing machine; and said advancement means, said cutting means and said positioning means being coordinately operatable so that said advancement means unwind said length of material for a said first portion whose longitudinal dimension is such that said leading edge is

engaged in said positioning means, said positioning means oscillate through said 90° angle to position and block said leading edge in alignment with and at the sewing path of said sewing machine, said sewing machine produces a stitched seam along said leading edge, said advancement means unwind a said second portion from said length of material, and said cutting means cut a piece from said length of material.